

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO OCT-01 PA-01 INR-01 ISO-00 /004 W

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P R 291543Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5531

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 9616

E.O.. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, LE, TU, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - TURKISH- AMERICAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS FOLLOWING LATEST CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF EXTENSIVE COMMENT IN BEIRUT PRESS. PRO-WESTERN AND INDEPENDENT PAPERS SUCH AS "AN-NAHAR" AND "AL-JARIDA" SEE ISSUE IN TERMS OF INSTITUTIONAL CONFLICT BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF USG. "AN-NAHAR" GOES FURTHER TO ASK WHAT EFFECT THIS CONFLICT MAY HAVE ON EFFORTS TO SOLVE MIDEAST CRISIS. PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" AND PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT" BOTH DISCOUNT ARMS SHIPMENT ISSUE AS PASSING CLOUD AND FORESEE EVENTUAL COMPROMISE ENABLING TURKEY TO "RETURN TO WESTERN FOLD". PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B" ATTACKS CONGRESS FOR FAILING TO SEE PARALLEL BETWEEN TURKISH ACTION IN CYPRUS AND ISRAELI ACTION IN ARAB WORLD. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" WRITES (JULY 29):
"CURRENT TENSION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND TURKEY HAS RAISED QUESTIONS NOT SO MUCH RE FUTURE OF NATO AS RE FUTURE OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS. CRISIS IS NOT BETWEEN ANKARA AND
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WASHINGTON --BOTH ARE AGREED ON ISSUE OF ARMS -- BUT

BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF U.S. AND TURKEY ON ONE SIDE AND U.S. CONGRESS ON THE OTHER.... POSITION OF CONGRESS APPEARS TO BE KIND OF PUNISHMENT OF DR. KISSINGER FOR HIS FAILURE IN CYPRUS, JUST AS ITS POSITION ON INDOCHINA WAS KIND OF PUNISHMENT FOR HIS LACK OF SUCCESS IN PARIS NEGOTIATIONS.... QUESTIONS WHICH NOW ARISE OF COURSE REVOLVE AROUND MIDEAST AND EXTENT TO WHICH CONGRESS IS PREPARED TO CHALLENGE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATION AND HAMPER ITS MOVES IN THIS FIELD.... SOME PREDICT THAT CONGRESS WILL EASE ANY PRESSURE THAT AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION MAY EXERT ON ISRAEL TO REACH SETTLEMENT PRESERVING STRONG AMERICAN PRESENCE IN ALL PARTS OF MIDEAST. IT IS CLEAR THAT SUCH BEHAVIOR WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION NOT ONLY SITUATION IN MIDEAST, BUT ALSO U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. FOR THIS CAMPAIGN, FORD APPEARS TO NEED SOME KIND OF VICTORY IN MIDEAST, AND, FOR SAME CAMPAIGN, IT MAY BE IN INTEREST OF HIS OPPONENTS TO FREEZE SITUATION."

3. PRO-WEST, PRO-SAUDI "AL-JARIDA" WRITES (JULY 26): "DISPUTE BETWEEN LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES IN U.S..... HAS CAUSED LATTER TO LOSE ITS POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN ASIA.... DISPUTE BETWEEN CONGRESS AND EXECUTIVE HAS REACHED A PEAK OVER EMBARGO ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY."

4. PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" WRITES (JULY 27): "ISSUE BETWEEN TURKEY AND U.S., OR RATHER BETWEEN TURKEY AND CONGRESS, IS THAT OF CYPRUS AND CYPRUS ALONE. ANY SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM WHICH TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION TURKEY'S OCCUPATION OF MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF ISLAND AND REARMAMENT OF TURKEY TO MAINTAIN THIS OCCUPATION WILL BE ENOUGH TO BRING TURKEY BACK TO FOLD, IN SPITE OF ALL THAT IS BEING SAID RE INDEPENDENT TENDENCIES OF PRESENT TURKISH REGIME.... TURKISH SIDE APPEARS TO HAVE CALCULATED ITS STEP CAREFULLY, AS IT DID ITS RESULTS AND FUTURE COMPLEXITIES. THIS EXPLAINS RELATIVE 'COOLNESS' THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED REACTIONS OF U.S., OF NATO, OF TURKISH PEOPLE, AND OF PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF THIRD WORLD AND ARAB REGIONS."

5. PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT" WRITES (JULY 28): "WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR IS THAT BALL HAS BEEN PUT BACK INTO AMERICA'S COURT. UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS SECSTATE HAD BEEN EXPECTING THIS AND ARE READY TO PLAY, BUT IN CAUTIOUS MANNER AND WITH SLOW AND CAREFUL STEPS THAT MAY LAST UNTIL SEPTEMBER.... CONGRESS WILL NOT RECONVENE TO DISCUSS TURKISH CASE UNTIL END OF ITS SUMMER RECESS, AND ANKARA SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND THIS SITUATION COMPLETELY.... MEANWHILE, NEGOTIATIONS ON CYPRUS WILL HAVE MADE CERTAIN DEGREE OF 'PROGRESS' ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON.... IT IS CERTAIN THAT TURKEY WILL NOT GO OVER TO OTHER CAMP

OVERNIGHT. TURKISH ARMY IS, IN ITS VERY SETUP, ORIENTED TOWARDS WEST, AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES ARE ABSENT EXCEPT FROM SOME LEFTIST GROUPINGS IN UNIVERSITIES. THIS IS NOT ENOUGH TO ALTER A WHOLE REGIME."

6. PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B" WRITES (JULY 26): "IT IS INDEED STRANGE THAT U.S. CONGRESS WHICH DECIDED TO IMPOSE EMBARGO ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY ON GROUNDS THAT IT IS USING THEM AGAINST CYPRUS, HAS IGNORED ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ARAB WORLD, WHERE AMERICAN ARMS ARE USED TO OCCUPY MORE ARAB TERRITORIES AND TO COMMIT FURTHER AGGRESSION AGAINST ARABS IN SPITE OF ALL INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED TO CONTRARY. WHY IS U.S. CONGRESS ENTHUSIASTIC IN ITS OPPOSITION TO TURKEY, WHICH 'ATTACKED CYPRUS TO DEFEND ITS SUBJECTS', AND NOT IN ITS OPPOSITION TO ISRAEL, WHICH HAS ATTACKED EGYPT, SYRIA, LEBANON, AND JORDAN TO OCCUPY MORE LANDS AND EXTERMINATE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE? THIS STRANGE IMBALANCE IN U.S. POSITION WILL OPEN EYES OF TURKISH PEOPLE TO DEGREE OF DEVIATION WHICH HAS AFFLICTED ANKARA'S POLICY IN ITS DEALINGS WITH WASHINGTON AGAINST ARAB BROTHERS AND NEIGHBORS."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT09616
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750261-0432
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750710/aaaaaihx.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION - TURKISH- AMERICAN RELATIONS
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, LE, TU, US
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006